Court was pleased to observe the need to appoint the Lokpal at the earliest. In his submissions the then Solicitor General informed the Hon'ble Supreme Court that the Lokpal Bill, 2001 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14th August, 2001, whereafter it was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report and the Standing Committee has since presented its Report on the Lokpal Bill, 2001 to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 31.12.2001. The observations/recommendations made by the Standing Committee on this Bill are under examination in consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs. It was merely an observation of the Hon'ble Court and not the order passed by the Court.

(c) The issue of creation of the institution of Lokpal and appointment thereto could be considered only after the Lokpal Bill, 2001 becomes an Act of Parliament.

Right to Information in Government Departments

†1747. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the various Government Departments in which "Right to Information" is in force and since when;

(b) whether there is any legal provision for the same or only administrative orders have been issued in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to implement it more effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies, Government had introduced the 'Freedom of Information Bill, 2000' in the Lok Sabha on 25th July, 2000. The Bill, as introduced in the Lok Sabha and pending therein, was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report thereon. The Standing Committee presented its Report to both the Houses of Parliament on 25th July, 2001. The Bill, as reported by the Standing Committee, was considered and passed by the Lok Sabha on 3rd December, 2002.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.